

REMARKS

The objections to the claims and the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2 have been fully addressed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The rejections of claim 1 as being anticipated by Daimon *et al.* under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 1 and 4 as being anticipated by Yamashita *et al.* under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 2, 3 and 8-10 as being unpatentable over Yamashita *et al.* in view of Nogami *et al.* under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and of claims 5-7 as being unpatentable over Yamashita *et al.* in view of Ben-Asher *et al.* under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are traversed. Reconsideration of each of these rejections is respectfully requested.

In the present invention, all of the elements, i.e., the control valves, and driving portions (or the solenoids), are disposed or aligned along the same axis. Consequently, the control valve for use of open-circuit and the control valve for use of close-circuit can be moved at the same time, when an instruction is inputted. That is, when an open instruction is given, after the control valve for closed-circuit use closes the small opening, the control valve for open-circuit use can operate alone, therefore making it possible to increase the opening. When a close instruction is given, however, after the control valve for open-circuit use closes the small opening thereof, the control valve for closed-circuit use can operate alone, making it also possible to increase the opening. The time during the valves of both the open-circuit and closed-circuit sides being opened at the same time is thus shortened so as to avoid flow-by of pressure from the supply

side of high pressure into the reservoir side of low pressure. Stable operation of the fluid pressure operation apparatus thereby results.

Neither the cited Daimon *et al.* patent nor the Yamashita *et al* patent teach or suggest aligning the control valves for open (open-circuit) operation and for close (close-circuit) operation along the same axis in addition to the other differences acknowledged in the Office Action (which differences are not obvious ones).


Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056208.52936US).

Respectfully submitted,

December 9, 2004



James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM:vlc
#350972